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Political Intelligence

We note with dismay the appointment of Clark M. Clifford, Washington attorney and close political associate of President Kennedy, as chairman of the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. He replaces Dr. James R. Killian, chairman of

the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The FIAB was established in 1956 to keep close watch on the Central Intelligence Agency and other government divisions with intelligence functions. As such, the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board should be completely divorced from politics and partisanship. While Mr. Clifford is an able lawyer he cannot be viewed as other than a partisan of the Kennedy administration. The suspicion may grow that the FIAB will be given a political direction favorable to the party now in power.

Already grave suspicions exist that intelligence estimates have been manipulated for political purposes. The Congress has produced intelligence estimates at variance with what administration officials have reported. In replacing an outstanding scientist and scholarly administrator with an administration insider, President Kennedy gives the impression that intelligence reports must pass a New Frontier political test.

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